

<p><b>UAF Master Planning Committee</b></p> <p>Thursday, May 15, 2003; 9 – 11 a.m. Chancellor's Conference Room; Signers' Hall Room 330</p>	<p>No agenda available</p>
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## **Master Planning Committee Meeting**

May 15, 2003

Notes

### **Members Present:**

Rick Caulfield (chair), Deb Brownfield, Clark Milne, John Craven, Terrence Cole, Ian Olson, Gerry Plumley, Chris Bennett, Rich Seifert, Joe Hayes, Freda Williams, Pamela Davis, Luke Hopkins

### **Guests:**

Miranda Wright, Phyllis Fast, Gary Newman, Brandon Maitlen

### **Welcome and announcements**

The chair welcomed members and guests and noted the fact that the MPC will be switching to monthly meetings for the period from June-August. The meeting dates are listed below. Other meetings will be held as needed, with notification provided by email.

Subcommittees on circulation and parking (C&P) and the North Campus area continue to meet. The C&P subcommittee will soon have a preliminary draft report from the consultant for review. They intend to refine it and develop recommendations for the MPC by early fall 2003. Similarly, the North Campus subcommittee is meeting and beginning to develop recommendations that will be presented to the MPC in fall. The ad hoc landscaping committee is also working with the consultant WRT in developing an overall landscaping plan for the campus.

The MPC executive committee (Caulfield, Brownfield, Craven) met with the Chancellor on May 12 to bring him up to date about MPC planning efforts.

Discussion included planning for the lower campus Quad, West Ridge plaza, and the open space adjacent to the museum (old College Observatory site).

The chair noted that the proposed MPC bylaw change regarding a process for public comment is on the web. Current bylaws require that any proposed bylaw changes be placed on the web for 30 days prior to action. The MPC intends to act on this bylaw change at its June meeting.

### **Facilities Services: Overview of Major Projects**

Kathleen Schedler presented an overview of major design and construction projects on campus. She shared a handout that depicts the many projects underway and their timelines. It can be found on the Facilities Services DDC website.

Major projects underway are the WR utilidor, museum addition, West Ridge Research Building, power plant improvements, Wood Center improvements, and lab modifications in O'Neill and Arctic Health. Information about construction activities and efforts to mitigate their impact during summer 2003 can be found on the FS website.

DOT continues to work on the Thompson Drive project. UAF is working with them to monitor and shape the construction project, which is ahead of schedule. The project will require some brief road closures on West Tanana during summer.

Power plant construction will also require making Alumni Drive one-way from May until October 2003.

### **Public Comments**

During the regular opportunity for public comments, Gary Newman (GI staff) expressed appreciation to FS for efforts made in response to concerns expressed about construction impacts on West Ridge.

Miranda Wright expressed support for changes being discussed in the lower campus Quad (see below). Based on conversations with colleagues in Brooks Building, she expressed support for moving the 'eternal flame' honoring Dr. Emily Ivanoff Brown (near the dorms) to a more central location in the Quad near Brooks Building.

### **Moore Hall Antenna/Equipment Request**

The chair spoke recently with Steve Titus in FS about progress in evaluating the request for a Moore Hall antenna from the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. Titus was following up with FNSBSD and other campus offices to address questions raised during the previous MPC meeting. FS is still waiting for a response from the FNSBSD about several technical questions. As such, it is not in a position to recommend action at this meeting.

MPC members expressed general support for the placement but need answers to the technical questions. After discussion, the MPC delegated to the MPC executive committee the authority to make a recommendation on its behalf to the Chancellor about this project once FS is satisfied with the technical questions.

Several members noted that approval of this project would demonstrate positive collaboration between UAF and the broader community and between educational institutions.

### **Presentation from Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Native Education (CACNE): "Troth Yeddh' Park"**

Miranda Wright and Phyllis Fast of CACNE provided an update about concept planning for the proposed "Troth Yeddh' Park" to be located adjacent to the museum in the area identified as open space. CACNE presented a concept paper that calls for an interpretive area celebrating diversity on campus and Native cultures of Alaska. The presentation noted the relationship of this concept to UAF's mission and goals, and approval of the concept by the Faculty Senate. CACNE also met with the Chancellor recently to share their ideas about the proposal.

The draft concept includes landscaping with native plants, links to the museum and Natural Sciences Facility, an amphitheatre, interpretive signs and a map showing indigenous placenames for the Tanana Valley. It includes attention to ADA design requirements and the desire for trails linking with the North Campus area.

Funding for the project may be available from Native regional corporations or other sources. CACNE is now doing some preliminary work to identify possible

funding sources. Moreover, some preliminary discussions have taken place with the National Park Service about providing assistance in design and in developing interpretive displays.

MPC members inquired about the project's impact on the existing Townsend monument. It would not be disturbed, and access would likely be improved. Ski trails would also be possible in the area, with connections to the trail system in the North Campus area. Members expressed the desirability of having students and community groups involved in the planning and to work closely with UAF Museum staff in design. They also noted that Georgeson Botanical Garden is involved in fundraising. It would be important to coordinate any new fundraising efforts with them. A suggestion was also made that the concept plan be placed on the MPC and/or Facilities Services website.

Planning on "Troth Yeddh' Park" will continue through CACNE with Miranda Wright and Phyllis Fast in the lead. The MPC ad hoc landscaping committee will work with CACNE in developing this concept. We agreed that CACNE and the landscaping committee would make another report about concept development at the MPC's meeting on August 28, 2003.

### **Planning for Lower Campus Quad**

The chair noted a meeting on May 8 of an ad hoc MPC working group on the lower campus Quad. Notes from that meeting were made available to MPC members. Construction equipment will be removed from the area in June 2003 and the current contract calls for returning the quad to its original state. The ad hoc working group believes that this may provide an opportunity to begin making improvements to the quad.

Glen Kravitz, FS architect, made a presentation about the working group's discussion and possible design considerations. Three preliminary design concepts incorporating different elements were presented. Current discussions focus on how to make the quad inviting on a year-round basis, with gathering areas and landscaping. This includes proposed removal of the current visitor parking in the quad as called for in the UAF master plan. They also focus on removal of the fountain, which is functional only a few months of the year, and in retaining the flags in some form.

Funding for short-term or long-term improvements to the quad is uncertain. Modest funding is available in connection with the current contract. But a major redesign of the quad would require new sources. Discussions focused on the possibility of making short-term (1-2 year) changes using existing funds but to continue developing a longterm plan, including a fundraising strategy. Such short-term changes could include major modifications to the fountain (converting it into a sitting area), landscaping, redesign of walkways, and provision of picnic tables and perhaps even an area for a bonfire.

MPC members expressed general support for making longterm improvements to the quad, including removing the fountain and improving pedestrian circulation. Several members expressed support for removing parking in the quad but underscored the importance of retaining visitor and short-term parking near Signers' Hall (presumably in the South and West Eielson lots). Several members questioned the timing of making changes to parking in the quad at this time. While supportive overall, they believe that more information and input is desirable. Others expressed the view that this is the time to make such changes, given that construction has already impacted parking.

In response to the presentation and discussions, the MPC voted on several proposed recommendations to the Chancellor. A motion was made (J. Craven) and seconded (Rich Seifert) to endorse execution of the revised short-term quad plan presented by Facilities Services and depicted in graphic form (see attached motion MPC 03-03). This includes removal of parking in the quad in summer 2003 and making visitor/short-term parking available nearby. It includes converting the fountain into a sitting area, improvements to walkways, adding landscaping and picnic tables, and relocating the flags to a nearby location. It also includes having a turnaround for vehicles on the edge of the quad between Bunnell and Signers' Hall.

An amendment to the motion that would preclude removal of parking in the quad until further study was defeated.

After considerable discussion—and a motion to table that was defeated—the MPC voted on the original motion. It was approved by a vote of 10 in favor, 2 opposed, 2 abstentions. The chair will forward this recommendation to the Chancellor.

The MPC asked that FS continue planning for both short-term and long-term improvements to the Quad. FS will continue working with the ad hoc landscaping committee in developing a concept paper for fundraising. A suggestion was made to approach the Rasmuson Foundation for funding. Discussion about that concept plan and about quad developments will be taken up again at the MPC's June 28, 2003 meeting.

### **Concept Discussion: Murkowski-Young Office Replication**

UAF has been approached by Rep. Young and Governor Murkowski about locating a facility on or near campus to replicate their congressional offices, store archival materials, and provide meeting and display space. Private funds will be used for the facility—initial estimates range up to \$10 million. No decisions have yet been made about its construction, but the principals involved are interested in moving ahead.

FS (Kathleen Schedler) is working on a concept plan including possible locations. None are in core campus areas (i.e. within Tanana Loop). Four possible sites have been identified to date: three are at the corner of Geist Road and Thompson Drive (NE, NW, SE corners—all university land) and the fourth is in the Taku (Ballaine) parking lot. Some discussion ensued about these locations. Several MPC members asked about the possibility of co-locating this facility with others having similar building needs. This will be explored further as the concept develops.

MPC members expressed a strong interest in being involved in concept development if this project moves ahead. Kathleen Schedler asked who on the MPC should be involved. The chair suggested—with MPC concurrence—that an ad hoc committee be formed to work with FS on this concept. Those identified to serve are MPC executive committee members (Caulfield, Brownfield, Bennett, Craven), Paul McCarthy, Pamela Davis, Rich Seifert, and Ian Olson. It was suggested that someone from Political Science also be invited to provide an academic perspective on the proposal.

### **Scheduled MPC Summer Meetings**

Thursday, June 26, 9-11am, Chancellor's Conference Room

Thursday, July 24, 9-11am, Chancellor's Conference Room

Thursday, August 28, 9-11am, Chancellor's Conference Room

Others called as needed (notice provided by email)